

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending and await further action on the merits.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pasquier et al., WO 99/37701 (hereinafter WO '701). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that WO '701 fails to teach or fairly suggest the inventive *polymerizable composition* which comprises the combination of a cycloolefin monomer (A), a polymer (C) having a carboxyl group or a carboxylic anhydride group and having an acid value in the range of 0.1 to 100 mgKOH/g, and a metathesis polymerization catalyst (D).

In the Official Action, the Examiner alleges that WO '701 teaches: a polymeric composition comprising a polymer (P2) obtaining by cross-linking a polymer (P1). The Examiner equates polymer (P1) with the inventive polymer (C).

However, polymer (P1) of WO '701 is prepared by ring opening of a cycloolefin monomer in the presence of a metathesis polymerization catalyst. Moreover, what WO '701 discloses as cycloolefin monomer is a macromonomer having norbornene ring. As such, (P1) of WO '701 could not be equivalent to inventive polymer (C).

Accordingly, WO '701 fails to teach or suggest the polymerizable composition according to claim 1 of the present invention which comprises a polymer (C) having a carboxyl group or a carboxylic anhydride group and having an acid value in the range of 0.1 to 100 mgKOH/g *in combination with* a cycloolefin monomer (A) which is not ring-opening polymerized; and a metathesis polymerization catalyst (D). In this aspect, the polymerizable composition according to claim 1 of the present invention is different from that of WO '701.

Further, concerning the description about the copolymers of maleic anhydride with styrene, WO '701 only discloses that the above-mentioned (P2) can be used as a colorant of the copolymers. Thus, the description does not disclose the polymerization of the cycloolefin

monomers in the presence of the copolymers. From these facts, it is apparent that disclosure of WO '701 is different from the polymerizable composition according to claim 1 of the present invention.

In addition, as an Example, WO '701 discloses an embodiment using bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-carboxylic acid as a raw material of the above-mentioned cycloolefin monomer (macromonomer). However, in the cycloolefin monomer obtained by using such raw material, the carboxyl group and carboxylic anhydride are esterified. Therefore, (P2) obtained by using such a cycloolefin monomer would not have a carboxyl group or carboxylic anhydride. For this reason, even when the monomers having norbornene ring are polymerized in the presence of thus obtained (P2), the molded product according to the present invention cannot be obtained.

As described above, WO '701 does not disclose the polymerizable composition, molded product nor crosslinked resin molded product according to the present invention. Moreover, these are not obvious from disclosure of WO '701. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-11 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is not tenable and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, WO '701 does not fairly suggest a polymerizable composition comprising: a cycloolefin monomer (A), a filler (B), a polymer (C) having a carboxyl group or a carboxylic anhydride group and having an acid value in the range of 0.1 to 100 mgKOH/g, and a metathesis polymerization catalyst (D). Accordingly, the present invention is not rendered unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion


In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims are allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Esq., Reg. No. 43,575 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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